

III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) Apparatus to bend a first and a second cross seal (1, 2) of a bag (3), made of a flexible packaging material, towards the sidewall (5) with:

first means (4) to orient the first cross seal (2) towards the sidewall (5) of the bag, before it is transferred to the turning means (7)

turning means (7) to fix and turn the bag upside down,

the turning means (7) comprising a plane (8) onto which the bag is dropped before it is fixed,

second means (6) to orient the second cross seal (1) towards the sidewall (5) of the bag after it has been turned upside down.

12. (New) Apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that the turning means rotate by 180° back and forth.

13. (New) Apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that the means (4, 6) are gas ejection means or mechanical means, preferably a plate.

14. (New) Packaging machine (1), especially vertical-type packaging machine, for producing tubular bags (3) from a foil (9) web, characterized in that it comprises an apparatus according to claim 11.

15. (New) Method to produce a bag (3) made of a flexible packaging material and filled with a packaging item, characterized in that it is turned while it is produced by a packaging machine according to claim 14.

16. (New) Method according to claim 15, characterized in that two cross seals (1, 2) of the bag are oriented towards the sidewall (5) of the bag.

17. (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that the shape of the bag is stabilized by the packaging item.

18. (New) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that the cross seals (1, 2) are bent towards the sidewall (5) of the bag (3) by the weight of the packaging item.